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10/039,848	10/23/2001	Michael A. blackstock	034700-002	9346

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EXAMINER

THAI, CUONG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/039,848

Applicant(s)

BLACKSTOCK ET AL.

Examiner

CUONG T THAI

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) None is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

**PART III. DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-26 are presented for examination.
2. The Information Disclosure Statement filed on Jan/23/2002 have been received and fully considered by the Examiner.

***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 16-17 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 16, line 2, "participant" should be "at least one participant".

Claim 17, line 2, "participant" should be "at least one participant".

Claim 19, line 2, "with" should be "on".

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. Claims 8 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 8 recite the limitation "the electronic devices of the participants" in lines 1-2.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 24 recite the limitation "the electronic devices" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kitahara et al. (USPN: 5,745,711) hereinafter Kitahara.

As per claim 1 (GUI), Kitahara anticipated a graphical user interface for a display of an electronic device and used for the collaboration of participants located within an area, the graphical user interface comprising:

an area representation generated on the display is taught by Kitahara as the technique of a window 250 of a shared use application program which is used in a share work (see col. 5, lines 43-44); and

at least one participant representation generated on the display corresponding to a respective one of the participants is taught by Kitahara as the meeting table area of participants 300A, 300B, and 300D (see Fig. 17);

wherein the participant representation allows a viewer of the display to quickly identify the participants in the area is taught by Kitahara as the technique of allowing user quickly identify participants 300A, 300B, and 300D (see Fig. 17).

This claim is therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claim 3, the limitation of a data representation generated on the display, the data representation allowing a viewer to access information associated therewith is taught by Kitahara

Art Unit: 2173

as the technique of a window 250 of a shared application which is used in a shared work (see col. 5, lines 43-44). This claim is therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claim 4, the limitation of wherein the data representation is configured to allow participants to share the information associated therewith is taught by Kitahara as the technique of the conferences documents are sharingly executed by an OHP object on the conference window (see abstract). This claim is therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claim 5, the limitation of comprising a device representation generated on the display, the device representation allowing a viewer to control the device associated therewith is taught by Kitahara as the technique of the video image and audio voice when the focus is moved (998) from the window 942 showing the conference to the window 949 of the shared application used in the conference (a) (see col. 16, lines 46-49). This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claim 6, the limitation of comprising a shared area and a private area, the shared area being operative to provide information to all viewers of the graphical user interface and the private area being operative to provide information only to selected participants is taught by Kitahara as the technique of a conference window is displayed on a workstation display during the teleconference and include a meeting table are as a shared space and a local area which can not be seen by the other participants (see abstract). This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claim 7, the limitation of wherein the participant representation is an icon that corresponds to the participant is taught by Kitahara as the technique of a window 250 of a shared use application program which is used in a shared work, and a desktop window 245 are displayed on the workstation 20. An icon 246 to indicate a conference window is displayed in the desktop window 245 (see col. 5, lines 43-47). This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 2 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentably over Kitahara et al. (USPN: 5,745,711) hereinafter Kitahara in view of Hatooka et al. (JP519313) hereinafter Hatooka.

As per claim 2, while Kitahara discloses the limitation of the participant representation is generated on the display at an approximate location of the participant as the technique of a conference window to display both of a place of a shared space, namely, cooperative work and a place of a local space (see col. 2, lines 51-53) and the meeting table area of participants 300A, 300B, and 300D (see Fig. 17). Kitahara does not disclose the limitation of wherein the area representation is generated according to the physical characteristics of the area.

Hatooka discloses the limitation of wherein the area representation is generated according to the physical characteristics of the area as the technique of locations of participants (see page 1, lines 7-8) wherein terminal equipment consists of cursor indication mark 1 and a cursor indication mark 3 of opposite party (see abstract, lines 8-10 and see Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hatooka teaching of wherein the area representation is generated according to the physical characteristics of the area into that of Kitahara's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by allowing users to share their indicated physical marks in order to achieve the goal.

As per claim 22, while Kitahara discloses the limitation of determining entity information located within an area as the technique of the meeting table area of participants 300A, 300B, and 300D (see Fig. 17). Kitahara does not disclose the limitations of determining the location information of the participants located within the area and generating a representation for each of the respective participants on the display of the electronic device in their respective locations within the area.

Hatooka discloses the limitations of determining the location information of the participants located within the area and generating a representation for each of the respective participants on the display of the electronic device in their respective locations within the area as the technique of locations of participants (see page 1, lines 7-8) wherein on the terminal display consists of cursor indication mark 1 and a cursor indication mark 3 of opposite party (see abstract, lines 8-10 and see Fig. 1), and the terminal unit for teleconferencing characterized by

establishing the area for conservation in the location which stands in a row to both direction marks (see claim 1, lines 7-9).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hatooka teachings of determining the location information of the participants located within the area and generating a representation for each of the respective participants on the display of the electronic device in their respective locations within the area into that of Kitahara's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by allowing participants to share their works and communications with one another in order to share/exchange information.

9. Claims 8-9, 12, 14, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentably over Kitahara et al. (USPN: 5,745,711) hereinafter Kitahara in view of McNerney et al. (USPN: 5,999,208).

As per claim 8, Kitahara disclose the invention substantially as claimed above. Kitahara, however, does not disclose the limitation of wherein the electronic devices of the participants are in communication with one another and the graphical user interface is configured to share information between the devices.

McNerney discloses the limitation of wherein the electronic devices of the participants are in communication with one another and the graphical user interface is configured to share information between the devices as the technique of the virtual reality conferences are presented in a rendering that emulates the physical appearance and presence of the physical participants and communication device that would present in a conference room (see abstract) from where



any user can sweep between active calls and all interaction take place in a single graphical environment, as opposed to changing between a text and a graphical environments. The user can use the virtual meeting room for persistent and periodic meetings, where documents can be stored, agendas posted for the next meeting (see col. 7, lines 13-18).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include McNerney teaching of wherein the electronic devices of the participants are in communication with one another and the graphical user interface is configured to share information between the devices into that of Kitahara's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by allowing user to share his work to the others in order to meet the goal.

As per claim 9, Kitahara discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Kitahara, however, does not disclose wherein the graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between devices in wired communication with each other.

McNerney discloses the limitation of graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between devices in wired communication with each other as the technique of transferring information via telephone 16 or telephone 42 (see Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include McNerney teaching of graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between devices in wired communication with each other into that of Kitahara's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by allowing user to transfer information via wired communication to the others.

As per claim 14, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 9, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 9.

As per claim 12 (method), Kitahara discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. While Kitahara discloses a method of providing information to participants of a meeting as the technique of window 250 of a shared use application program which is used in a share work (see col. 5, lines 43-44), determining entity information for at least one participant as the technique of the meeting table area of participants 300A, 300B, and 300D (see Fig. 17), and displaying with the GUI the entity information on at least one electronic device as the technique of the video image and audio voice when the focus is moved (998) from the window 942 showing the conference to the window 949 of the shared application used in the conference (a) (see col. 16, lines 46-49). Kitahara, however, does not disclose the limitation of a collaboration interface comprising the step of networking the electronic devices of the participants in order to share information.

McNerney discloses the limitation of a collaboration interface comprising the step of networking the electronic devices of the participants in order to share information as the technique of the virtual reality conferences are presented in a rendering that emulates the physical appearance and presence of the physical participants and communication device that would present in a conference room (see abstract) and any user can sweep between active calls and all interaction take place in a single graphical environment, as opposed to changing between a text and a graphical environments. The user can use the virtual meeting room for persistent and

Art Unit: 2173

periodic meetings, where documents can be stored, agendas posted for the next meeting (see col. 7, lines 13-18).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include McNerney teaching of virtual reality conferences are presented in a rendering that emulates the physical appearance and presence of the physical participants and communication devices that would present in a conference room into that of Kitahara's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of allowing user capability of controlling his own device and share that information with others in order to finish a task.

As per claim 21, the limitation of wherein the GUI is divided into a shared area and a private area and step of displaying with the GUI comprises displaying the entity information in the private area which is accessible to only authorized participants is taught by Kitahara as the technique of a conference window is displayed on a workstation display during the teleconference and include a meeting table are as a shared space and a local area which can not be seen by the other participants (see abstract). This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claim 17, Kitahara disclose the invention substantially as claimed above. Kitahara, however, does not disclose the limitation of determining entity information comprising biographical data about the participant.

McNerney discloses the limitation of determining entity information comprising biographical data about the participant as the technique of providing entity formation including

biographical information about the participants from Joe Group, City Bank, and Mark Company (see Fig. 4).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include McNerney teaching of determining entity information comprising biographical data about the participant into that of Kitahara's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of allowing user to known more about biographical information of participants whose are in a group conference.

As per claim 18, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 4, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 4.

As per claim 19, Kitahara disclose the invention substantially as claimed above. Kitahara, however, does not disclose the limitation of displaying the entity information with the GUI on all of the devices connected in the network.

McNerney discloses the limitation of the entity information with the GUI on all of the devices connected in the network as the technique of media telecommunication network used to implement for present system (see col. 3, lines 34-35 and see Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include McNerney teaching of the entity information with the GUI on all of the devices connected in the network into that of Kitahara's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of displaying all hardware devices connected in the networks.

As per claim 20, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 6, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 6.

10. Claims 10-11, 13, 15-16, and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentably over Kitahara et al. (USPN: 5,745,711) hereinafter Kitahara in view of McNerney et al. (USPN: 5,999,208) and further in view of Hackbarth et al. (US 2002/0143877 A1) hereinafter Hackbarth.

As per claim 10, Kitahara-McNerney discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. McNerney discloses the limitation of the graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between the devices. Kitahara-McNerney, however, does not disclose wherein the graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between devices in wireless communication with each other.

Hackbarth discloses the limitation of graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between devices in wireless communication with each other in term of PDA (see page 7, paragraph [0177]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hackbarth teaching of graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between devices in wireless communication with each other into that of Kitahara-McNerney combined invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable

Art Unit: 2173

of allowing user to transfer information to the other via wireless communication. Thus, the information would be transmitted quicker to designate destination.

As per claim 11, Kitahara-McNerney discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. McNerney discloses the limitation of the graphical user interface is configured to transfer information between the devices. Kitahara-McNerney, however, does not disclose the limitation of the participant representation are configured to be displayed on a device selected from the group consisting of: a computer, a personal digital assistant, and a cell phone.

Hackbarth discloses the limitation of the participant representation are configured to be displayed on a device selected from the group consisting of: a computer, a personal digital assistant, and a cell phone as the technique of the table also includes presence data 402 including a set of description about which devices (phone, PC, PDA) a user has made use of (see page 7, paragraph [0177]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hackbarth teaching of the participant representation are configured to be displayed on a device selected from the group consisting of: a computer, a personal digital assistant, and a cell phone into that of Kitahara-McNerney combined invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of allowing user made use of variety of devices. Thus, the system would provide better user choice to its end user.

As per claim 13, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 10, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reason applied to claim 10.

As per claim 15, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 11, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reason applied to claim 11.

As per claim 16, Kitahara-McNerney discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Kitahara-McNerney, however, does not disclose the limitation of determining entity information automatically from the electronic device of the participant.

Hackbarth discloses the limitation of determining entity information automatically from the electronic device of the participant as the technique of the table also includes presence data 402 including a set of description about which devices (phone, PC, PDA) a user has made use of (see page 7, paragraph [0177]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Hackbarth teaching of determining entity information automatically from the electronic device of the participant into that of Kitahara-McNerney combined invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by allowing system administrator to know what device the user has made use of.

As per claim 23, due to the similarity of this claim to the combination of claims 16-17, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claims 16-17.

As per claim 24, due to the similarity of this claim to the combination of claims 15-16, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claims 15-16.

As per claim 25, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 8, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 8.

As per claim 26, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 21, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reason applied to claim 21.

### *Conclusion*

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach a virtual meeting environment which includes both private and shared area which allowing participants to share work and devices to the others.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG T THAI whose telephone number is (703) 308-7234 through the month of October, 2004 and at (571) 272-4056 thereafter.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116 through the month of October, 2004 and at (571) 272-4048 thereafter.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications



Art Unit: 2173

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CUONG T THAI

Examiner

Art Unit 2173

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September 16, 2004.



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